

Remarks

The present Amendment and Response is submitted in reply to the Office Action mailed August 1, 2005. Claims 1-9 and 17-23 were allowed. Claims 10 and 11 were rejected. Reexamination and reconsideration is requested.

The specification was objected to for failing to provide the proper antecedent basis for the springs. As set forth on page 4, lines 16-22 of the specification:

The baseplate includes first and second positioning tabs 13 and 14. The positioning tabs can be formed by forming narrowed regions 301 and 302, of the baseplate. A resilient effect is generated when positioning tab 13 is moved in the direction of arrow 305. Region 303 is compressed in such a movement and provides the spring force to return the tab to a downward orientation. Region 304 works in a similar way when positioning tab 14 is moved in the direction of arrow 306. (Emphasis added).

The regions 303, 304 generate a spring force. Applicant respectfully submits that this disclosure provide adequate antecedent basis for the claimed spring region.

The specification has also been amended to include a discussion of Figures 12, 12A, and 12B. With the exception of reference numerals 70, 71 and 72, the reference numerals appear elsewhere in the specification. The discussion of items 70, 71, and 72 corresponds to the discussion on page 6, lines 12-14 of the specification.

Claims 10 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Seeger ('626). Seeger discloses a connection for forming an intersection of tubular muntin bars. The hooks 18, 20 of Seeger are designed to interlock with an opening 28 in a side wall of a muntin bar. The positioning tabs of the claim invention, by contrast, hold the connector away from another structure, such as for example the frame, until the muntin bar is positioned in the desired location. For example, as seen in Figures 2 and 6 of the present invention, the positioning tabs extend above the adhesive 30. Once the muntin bars are in the desired location, the operator presses the adhesive into engagement by overcoming the resilience of the positioning tabs.

Claim 10 has been amended to recite generally the subject matter of claim 1, plus a spring region between the base plate and the positioning tab. Applicants submit that

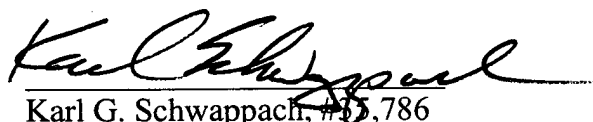
claim 10, and the claims that depend thereon, distinguishes over the cited reference and are in condition for allowance.

If the amount submitted herewith is insufficient, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account 06-0029, and in such an event, is requested to notify us of the same.

Respectfully Submitted,

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By:



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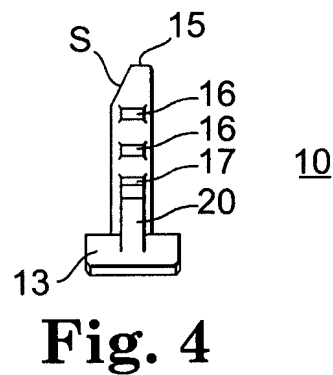
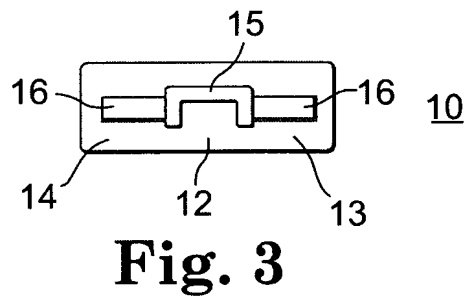
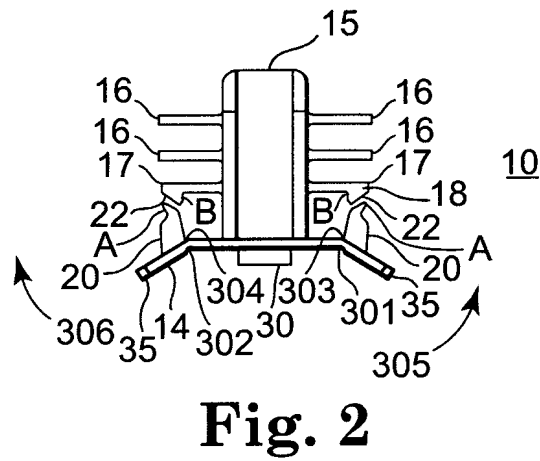
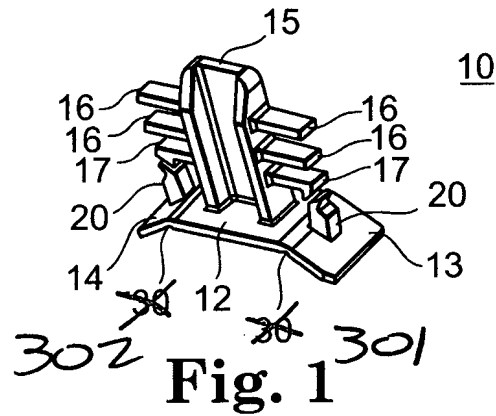
Dated: October 20, 2005

Amendments to the Drawings

Please amend the drawings by replacing the corresponding drawings currently on file with the enclosed five (5) Replacement Sheets containing Figures 1-4, 7A-7C, 7D, 8-10 and 12-12B. The enclosed amended drawings support the amendments made in the Amendments to the Specification section of this Amendment and Response.



ANNOTATED SHEET
SHOWING CHANGES



ANNOTATED SHEET
SHOWING CHANGES

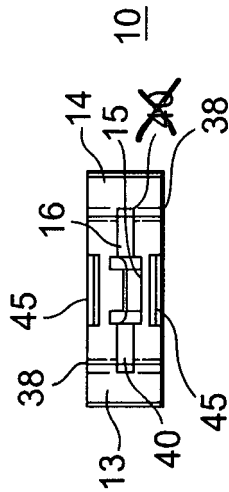


Fig. 7A

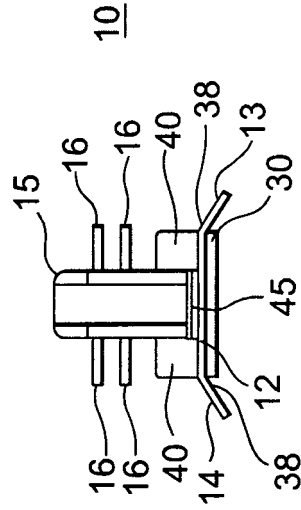


Fig. 7

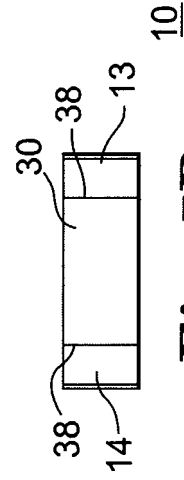


Fig. 7B

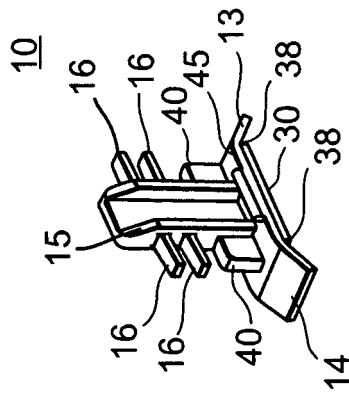


Fig. 7C

**ANNOTATED SHEET
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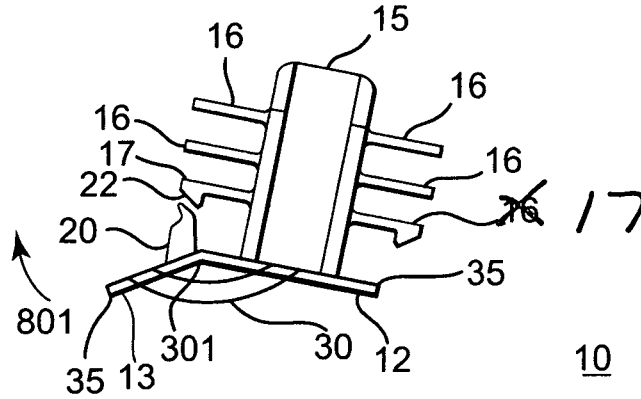


Fig. 8

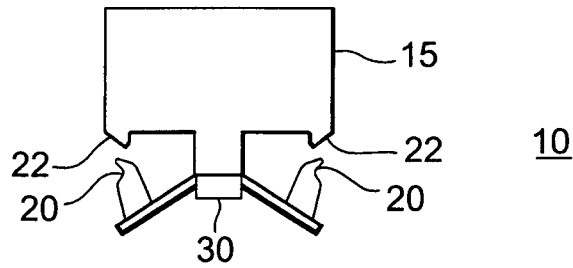


Fig. 9

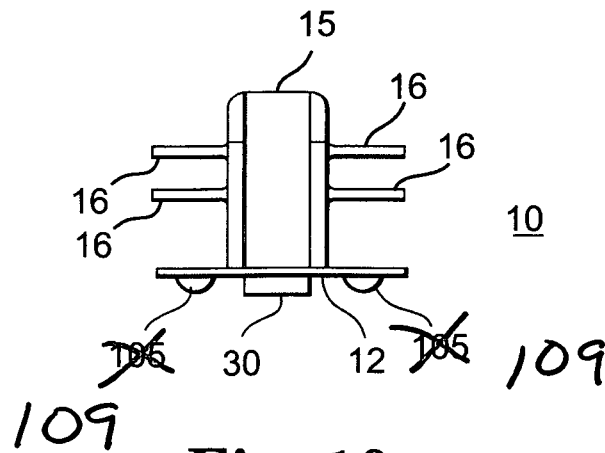


Fig. 10

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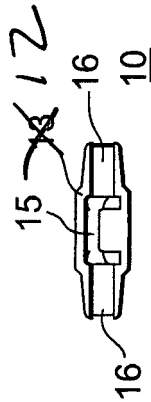


Fig. 12B

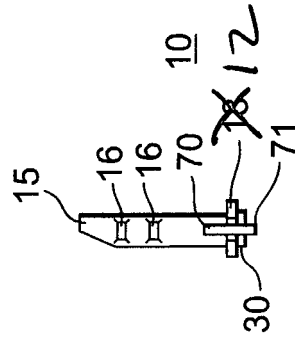


Fig. 12A

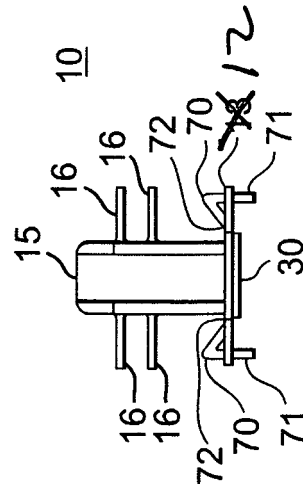


Fig. 12